

The OSCILLATOR

Volume 29 Issue 12
December 2006

Oregon Tualatin Valley Amateur Radio Club

The Oregon Tualatin Valley Amateur Radio Club is a special service club related to ARRL: The National Association for Amateur Radio. We seek to advance the Amateur Radio Service through:

- ⇒ Education and Training of new and licensed amateurs
- ⇒ Public Service and Emergency communication
- ⇒ Hobby nets, contests and meetings
- ⇒ Social events

Membership is available to anyone interested in amateur radio. A license is not required.

KK7TN PARAGRAPHS Don Stettler KK7TN

Since I have chosen not to run for president again this will be the last time I will write this column for the Oscillator, at least, for a time. It has been quite a ride since that club meeting Wednesday, September 10, 2003, when I was so unceremoniously thrust into the top leadership position of the club.

I want to thank all the club members for the courtesy given me over the past three years plus a few months. I am quick enough to understand that from time-to-time not everyone has been pleased with my leadership. Despite that, I have always been treated with courtesy which I so much appreciated. Hopefully, it was because there was an understanding that I have been giving it my best shot and always keeping in mind the best interest of the club.

During my tenure four boards of directors have served with me. I have been fortunate to have the varied expertise that blended so well to be effective in dealing with the different issues that came to the forefront, some that were very difficult. I have appreciated the diligence of the
Go to PARAGRAPHS, Page 4

CONTESTS AND FIELD DAY

The OTVARC Contest Group has joined in two events officially, the North America QSO Contest and the ARRL Sweepstakes. You'll find an article on the Sweeps elsewhere in this issue.

The December QST carries full results for the 2006 Field Day, held June 24 - 25. This year, we reported as a 3A entry and operated from West Union Elementary School in Hillsboro. Class 3A represents three transmitters by a club or group with more than two operators. In addition, we had a full time Get On The Air (GOTA) Station.

In Oregon, our 3,152 point score placed us second behind Valley Radio Club in Eugene who achieved 4,618 points. However, we led the Oregon Section with 52 participants. There were 78 total participants among the four Oregon Section 3A entries. We can be proud of our effort. Nationally, we finished 87th out of 287 entries in 3A. The top 3A score was achieved by the CorTek Radio Association entry, W9CA, based in Wauconda, Illinois with 18,142 points and twenty-two participants.

Although Field Day is an event rather than a contest, it helps us hone operating skills.

CLUB MEETING

WEDNESDAY, December 13th

We meet on the second Wednesday of the month at the Beaverton Elks' Lodge, 3500 SW 104th Ave, Beaverton.

Our annual HOLIDAY DINNER will be held on December 13th beginning at 6:00 pm. Note the earlier start time. Your reservations (\$15.00 each) may be sent to the club mail box. We hope everyone will attend. Guests are welcome.

See you on December 13th. Bring a non-member ham as your guest to any OTVARC session.

Happy December Birthday

2 Bert Schmidt	W7JWG
3 Joan Schouweiler	N7LMK
4 Howard Merrit	KD7ZLF
6 Pat Griffiths	KA7UFG
6 Phil Kane	K2ASP
9 Roland West	K7MCK
13 Richard Ballard	W7AND
17 Peter Hardiman	N7DUC
19 Stan Griffiths	W7NI
27 Floyd Ragner	N7ONQ
27 Rox Heath	KD7OHE
28 Ken Nordling	W7EZE
31 Richard Bixler	WA7DKF

Updates and corrections to
w6abmarl.net

OTVARC ADDRESS:

880-NE-25th-Ave Ste 2-160
Hillsboro OR 97124-6258

2006 ARRL SWEEPSTAKES CONTEST

The 2006 edition of the ARRL sponsored November Sweepstakes Contest was held the weekend of November 18 - 20th. This 30-hour event has roots dating back to the early days of radio when the handling of message traffic was a more important function than it is today.

A total of 80 geographical "sections" can be worked, including all 50 States, 2 US Territories and Canadian Provinces and Territories. Several States have more than one section, which adds to the challenge. Stations working all sections achieve the coveted "Clean-Sweep," and major bragging rights!

For the OTVARC Contest Group this yearly event became our second opportunity to put the clubs W7OTV call sign on the air, practice our operating skills and have some great fun in a challenging contest. Stations are allowed to operate a total of 24-hours during this contest so teamwork, strategy and endurance are important to success as well.

As a multi-op single (Class M) the OTVARC group logged approximately 22 1/2 hours on the air starting at 1:00 PM local time on Saturday with Carl (WS7L) on the mike, later followed by Steve (KE7EIQ) later in the afternoon. Everett (W6ABM) shared the late afternoon/evening shift, till about midnight. We ended for the night at 1:00 AM with die-hard Ron (KD7VIK) on the mike, pulling in a few more multipliers.

Sunday morning we were back on the air by 9:00 AM, (KD7VIK, coffee cup in hand) with other operators including Everett (W6ABM) and Carl (WS7L) soon on hand. Dick (W7VPV) came back after church just in time to work a new multiplier and push the score past 30,000 points. The team continued operating pretty much non-stop till the end of the contest at 7:00 PM. A second transceiver had been set-up to use as a "spotter" station, increasing our chances to find and work new section multipliers. This strategy was a huge success and we'll be using it again whenever the rules allow.

Special highlights of the weekend included: Working Puerto Rico and the American Virgin Islands, Canada's Northwest Territories, (twice) and 45 of 50 US States, including multiple Alaska and Hawaii. With a total QSO count of 222, we logged 72 of 80 sections and had a total score just under 32,000 points.

Our Contest Group has several purposes in addition to high scores and any member (and guests) are welcome to join in the fun.

SEE SWEEPS, Page 4

LUNCH BUNCH

LUNCH BUNCH takes a month

Off in December.

Enjoy the HOLIDAY DINNER

With your club, December 13th

For More Information on LUNCH BUNCH

call KC7YTD Linda

503.246.8879

TRAVELERS'

There is no Travelers' event in December. General information on Travelers' events may be obtained from Betty N7REX at n7rex@teleport.com or by phone, 503.642.1284.

W7OTV ON SHOUTCAST

The club repeater can now be heard via the Internet! Search www.shoutcast.com for W7OTV.

The stream is up 24/7 at 48 kbps with a max of 32 listeners. Listening only, no transmit capability.

STATS FOR 16 OCT 06 to 16 NOV 06

Geographic location	Visitors	Play duration
United States	180	59:15:59
Germany	8	0:53:13
Canada	5	0:26:37
New Zealand	5	0:40:34
United Kingdom	5	0:39:49
Finland	4	0:19:21
Austria	2	0:04:38
France	2	0:02:30
Dominican Republic	1	0:05:30
Argentina	1	0:01:28
Russian Federation	1	0:09:05
Italy	1	0:02:10
Spain	1	0:14:52
Thailand	1	0:01:20
Japan	1	1:45:04
Sweden	1	0:03:13
Total	219	64:45:23

Board Meeting Summary OCTOBER 25th

The Board of Directors met on Wednesday, October 25th at TVF&R Station 67 in Beaverton. Those present: Don Stettler, Everett Curry, Phil Kane, Will Sheffield, Robert Crocker, Wes Allen, Steve Ward, Pat Colton. Alvin Carson was excused. Club Members Present: John Anderson, Carl Clawson, Rick Banton.

Various repeater issues were discussed regarding the 440.350 (KGON) and 146.96 (Goat Mtn) repeaters. Interference at Goat Mtn appears to be due to a better antenna being used by another operator. We are documenting interference at Goat Mtn from a newly located machine in Central Oregon.

The Board authorized the beginning of the cycle for the 2007 Mickley scholarship, based on a March confirmation.. Carl Clawson agreed to assume leadership of completion of the 2005 OTVARC audit process.

A proposed change to the bylaws amending the terms for Life Membership was discussed and a petition received as required by the Bylaws. The proposed amendment will be placed in the November issue of the newsletter. The Board approved a request W7OTV call sign for the November Sweepstakes. The Board authorized purchase of two deep-cell batteries for the trailer pending price quote.

Plans for the 2006 Holiday Dinner were confirmed.

HOLIDAY DINNER MEETING

Your reservations for the Holiday Dinner are due. If you need an additional registration form, email or call Everett/W6ABM (503.681.2345 or w6abm@arrl.net). The dinner is at our Wednesday, December 13th meeting at Beaverton Elks' Club. Naomi Ballard is coordinator.

The dinner is a no-host event. The club will provide \$300 for prizes and up to \$75 for decoration and other costs associated with the event. Meals are served at \$15.00 per person. Each registrant receives a ticket in the prize drawing, with additional drawing tickets available at the event. Members unable to attend the dinner are welcome at the meeting.

CLASSIFIED

FOR SALE, From Julie Landers KD7GQW:

Kenwood TH-G71A \$258.

with added accessory equipment

Alinco DJ-C5T \$168.

with added accessory equipment

For Details, Contact Will N7THL

Classified ad space is available without charge to all club members.

Contact the editor to arrange for publication.

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503-320-4100
sandersappraisal@comcast.net
Orengo Station, Hillsboro, OR 97124
Fax: 503-547-8200



SWEEPS, from Page 2

A special thanks to our dedicated Sweepstakes operators including:

- Carl Clawson – WS7L
- Everett Curry – W6ABM
- Steve Ward – KE7EIQ
- Dick Booth – W7VPV
- Ron O'Connor – KD7VIK

For those interested in learning more about contesting, (or just wanting a chance to learn more about the HF bands) we invite you to join in on the fun. All license classes are welcome. There are several more events planned and in the works over the next few months and we could use your help and support.

Ron O'Connor – KD7VIK

Paragraphs, from Page 1

board in discussing the options and deciding which would best serve the club's interests. If my leadership has been successful it has been because of those who have served with me.

I have commented on this before but I have been so impressed with how many aspects of the club go on seemingly "on automatic." These include the club's outreach with *Sea-Pac*, Technician License classes, VE sessions, scholarship, lunch bunch, health and welfare, public service opportunities, and Travelers'. Thanks to all of you for keeping these important activities going. I want to thank all those who have taken the lead and participated in the club's Field Day each year.

One of the persistently difficult tasks that I have had as your president has been writing these monthly Paragraphs. I thank all of you who have faithfully read my ramblings. This, my swan song, has been easy to write because it has been about thanking all those who have supported me as president.

Happy Holidays!

73, Don

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

You will be receiving notice of Membership Renewal by email or postal mail. Membership is on a calendar year basis. Membership is classified as Regular, Life, or Family.

Life Members are asked to renew in order to maintain accurate data for our Roster, no dues are required of Life Members when renewing. Donations for operation, scholarship, or repeater maintenance are encouraged.

Regular Members are asked to confirm their information and remit \$19.00 for 2007 dues. Family Members in the same household pay \$5.00 for annual membership. 2007 will be the fourth year of a five-year dues adjustment that is moving our base dues to \$20.00 annually. Donations for scholarship or repeater funds are encouraged as well.

Dues are due and payable now. You may remit your dues to the club address (OTVARC Membership, 880 NE 25th Ave. STE 2-160, Hillsboro, OR 97124) or to Alvin Carlson, Treasurer at any club meeting. Make your checks to OTVARC and clearly mark any donation amounts on the check.

Dues unpaid as of January 31, 2007 are in arrears and such members are not listed on the annual Roster. The 2007 Roster will be issued by February 14th.

Thank you for making timely remission of your dues to the club.

Need a unique and useful stocking stuffer? Give your friends a local product. They'll be so happy.

**OREGON TRAIL LIP BALM**

Created by: Maureen O'Rourke KA7LAP
mcorourke@netzero.com

Available at: Central Drugs-downtown Portland and
Beaverton Pharmacy.

VE EXAM SESSION

We held a session on November 4th with very good results. All five of our applicants achieved their goals. We had four new Technician licenses plus an upgrade to General.

We were pleased to initiate the newest member of our team: Will N7THL. We thank VEs Rich KD7GIE and Dave K7DLT who served at this session.

Our next session is Saturday December 2.

73, Carl WS7L

Our thanks to Carl WS7L for his leadership. Carl Clawson WS7L is our OTVARC VE team leader.

Our sessions are at 1:00 pm. monthly on the first Saturday. The Club offers exams at Ronler Acres Fire Station, 4455 NW 229th Ave, Hillsboro, across from Hillsboro Stadium. Pre-register for exams by contacting Carl, WS7L, at ws7l@arrl.net or by phone at 503.629.5796.

Check the OTVARC Web www.otvarc.org/ve for more information.

There are other exam opportunities in the area. Email to w7otv@arrl.net for locations and times.

ELECTION AND BYLAW BALLOTING

Ballots have been sent to all current club members. If you have not received yours, contact Everett W6ABM (503.681.2345 or w6abm@arrl.net) for assistance. Ballots are due in the OTVARC Post Box (OTVARC Ballot, 880 NE 25th Ave. STE 2-160, Hillsboro, OR 97124) by Noon or at the club Holiday Dinner on Wednesday, December 13th to be counted. Be sure your name and/or call sign is on the outside of the envelope.

Ballots include election of officers (we still lack a candidate for Vice President) and trustees and a second ballot on the proposed bylaw change.

How many U.S. radio stations are there?

The FCC has updated its tally. As of September 30th there were 4,751 AMs, 6,252 commercial FM's and 2,790 educational FM's. The total is 13,793 broadcast radio stations. That compares to June 30 totals of 4,744 AMs, 6,238 commercial FM's and 2,760 educational FM's. A total of 13,742 stations.

There are 746 Low Power FM broadcast licensees.

The FCC says there are 4,087 FM translators and boosters. That compares to 4,026 as of June 30th.

FUND FOR THE DEFENSE OF AMATEUR RADIO FREQUENCIES

It's been ten years since the ARRL made its first annual appeal for voluntary contributions to the Fund for the Defense of Amateur Radio Frequencies. Before 1996, appeals for financial support above and beyond basic membership dues were keyed to specific threats or opportunities.

That changed a decade ago, when ITU World Radiocommunication Conferences (WRCs) began to be scheduled at regular, frequent intervals. From that point forward, the final gavel at a WRC marked the beginning of preparations for the next one.

The leadership of the ARRL and the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) saw that we had to change how we prepared for international conferences. We had to assemble a permanent team, partly staff and partly volunteer, to ensure that the interests of the Amateur Radio Service would be adequately represented on an ongoing basis.

Thanks to the generous support of ARRL members like you, we were able to make that change -- and it's worked.

For the past decade, the ARRL's Technical Relations Office in suburban Washington, DC has been fully staffed to address the recurring challenges of WRCs. The IARU has been able to send capable volunteers to represent our interests at every meeting of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) that was important to us.

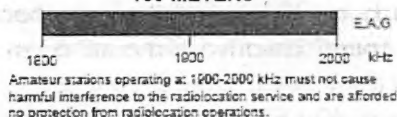
See DEFENSE, Page 7

US Amateur Bands

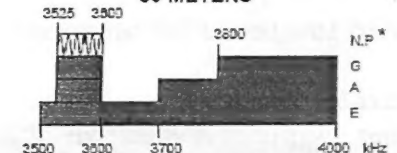
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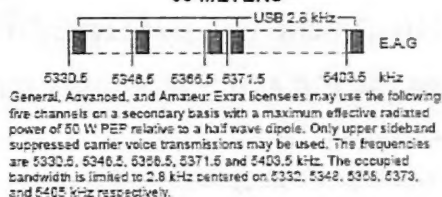
160 METERS



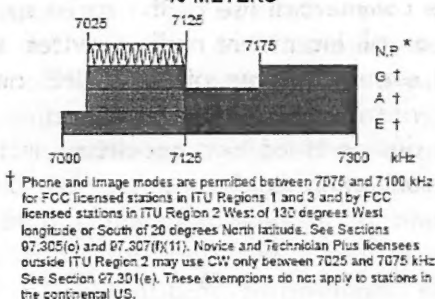
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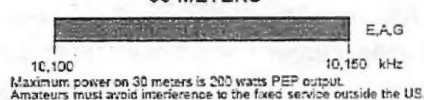
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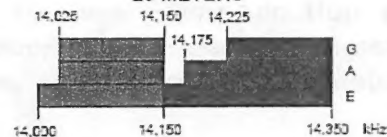
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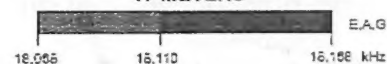
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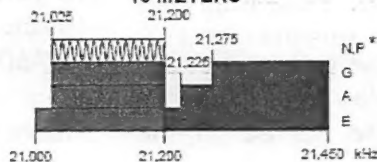
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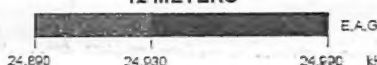
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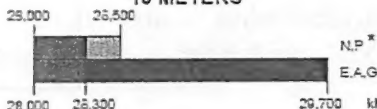
15 METERS



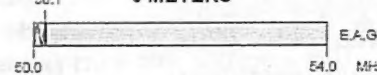
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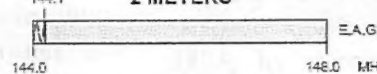
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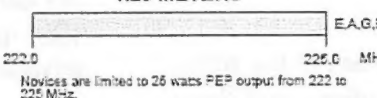
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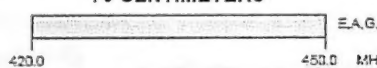
2 METERS



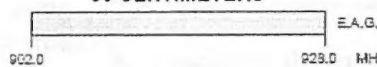
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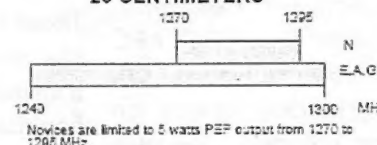
70 CENTIMETERS **



33 CENTIMETERS **



23 CENTIMETERS **



US AMATEUR POWER LIMITS

At all times, transmitter power should be kept down to that necessary to carry out the desired communications.

Power is rated in watts PEP output. Unless otherwise stated, the maximum power output is 1500 W.

Power for all license classes is limited to 200 W in the 10, 100-15, 150 kHz band. Novices and Technicians are restricted to 200 W below 28.5 MHz.

In addition, Novices are restricted to 25 W in the 222-225 MHz band and 5 W in the 1270-1295 MHz subband.

KEY

- = CW, RTTY and data
- = CW, RTTY, data, MCW, test, phone and image
- = CW, phone and image
- = CW and SSB phone
- = CW, RTTY, data, phone, and image
- = CW only
- = USB Phone only

E = AMATEUR EXTRA
A = ADVANCED
G = GENERAL
P = TECHNICIAN PLUS
T = TECHNICIAN
N = NOVICE

* Technicians who have passed the 5 wpm Morse code exam are indicated as "P".

** Geographical and power restrictions apply to all bands with frequencies above 420 MHz. See *The ARRL FCC Rule Book* for more information about your area.

*** 219-220 MHz allocated to amateurs on a secondary basis for fixed digital message forwarding systems only and can be operated by all licensees except Novices.

All licensees except Novices are authorized all modes on the following frequencies:

2300-2310 MHz
2390-2450 MHz
3300-3500 MHz
5650-5925 MHz
10.0-10.5 GHz
24.0-24.25 GHz
47.0-47.2 GHz
76.0-81.0 GHz
122.25-123.0 GHz
134-141 GHz
241-250 GHz
All above 275 GHz



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DEFENSE, from page 5

The most dramatic achievement is the improvement in the 40-meter band gained at the WRC in 2003. For the first time in history, broadcasters are moving to accommodate the needs of another radio service. Beginning in 2009, the amount of 40-meter spectrum that's free of interference from high-powered shortwave broadcasts is scheduled to double.

Already, the band is more useful than it's been since before World War II. Operating 40-meter phone at night is more productive and enjoyable than it's ever been. There are more gaps between the broadcasters than there used to be, and many amateurs in Europe already are permitted to use the additional 100 kHz -- giving us more opportunities to talk to our friends overseas. In just a couple of years it will be even better!

Without generous contributions to the Fund for the Defense of Amateur Radio Frequencies, we couldn't have done it. Membership dues alone can't be stretched far enough to cover everything we must do to protect and improve radio amateurs' access to the radio spectrum. It takes the additional support of thousands of ARRL members who are willing and able to supplement their dues.

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Ever since the closing gavel of WRC-03 we have been working to defend our hard-won gains, and our other bands as well. Another WRC will take place toward the end of 2007. And another after that, perhaps as early as 2010. And then another....

The ARRL has found creative ways to open more of the radio spectrum to amateurs. To bridge the gap between 75 and 40 meters, five channels just above 5 MHz are now available for SSB use -- and we're working on rules changes to allow more flexibility. We're always looking for new opportunities, from the lowest radio frequencies to the highest. An experimental license was just issued to the ARRL to permit designated stations to operate at 505 kHz, just below the AM broadcast band -- and we're already working on justifying amateur allocations above 275 GHz so we'll be ready when the ITU takes up this issue in a few years. With these opportunities come challenges, old and new. You probably know about the fight the ARRL is waging to limit spectrum pollution from Broadband over Power Line (BPL) systems. More intensive commercial use of the radio spectrum puts pressure on all incumbent radio services, including us. This is especially true of VHF, UHF and the lower microwave frequencies. Will you help?

The financial demands of our spectrum protection program are substantial and we need your commitment. Your contribution of \$500, \$100 or \$50 is needed to keep us on track.

We're not trying to block progress, but we are working to ensure that individuals will always be able to earn meaningful access to the radio spectrum by qualifying for an Amateur Radio license. Spectrum auctions have their place, but a healthy Amateur Radio Service -- one that delivers emergency and public service communications, technical training and advancement, and international goodwill -- is priceless. Thanks for taking the time to read this, and for making Amateur Radio better and stronger through your participation.

Sincere 73,
David Sumner, K1ZZ
Chief Executive Officer

P.S. We need to raise \$250,000 by December 31 to fund our frequency defense activities. Thank you for being as generous as your budget allows.

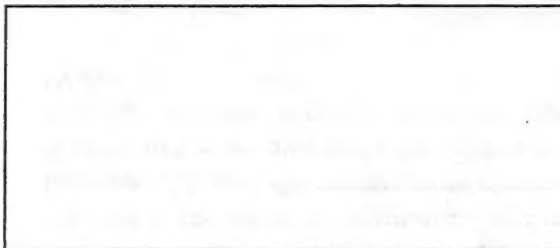
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223.94 MHz (Goat Mtn)
440.250 MHz (Goat Mtn)
440.350 MHz (127.3 KGON Tower)
Editor: Everett W6ABM w6abm@arrl.net



**CLUB MEETING
DECEMBER 13TH**